

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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Defendant.

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Case 1:07-cr-00043-JPJ Document 73 Filed 10/09/06 Page 1 of 3 Pageid#: 179

extend the stay previously entered, pending his anticipated application for certiorari with the Supreme Court. On October 4, 2006, the court of appeals issued its mandate. The docket of the court of appeals does not indicate that Evans applied to the court of appeals for a stay of its mandate. *See* Fed. R. App. P. 41(d)(2).

There is a question as to whether this court has the authority under the circumstances to stay the case pending certiorari. *See United States v. Lentz*, 352 F. Supp. 2d 718, 725-26 (E.D. Va. 2005) (holding that district court had no authority to stay criminal trial pending application for certiorari where court of appeals had remanded case for trial). Assuming, however, that this court does have such authority, I find that adequate grounds for a stay have not been shown.

In considering a certiorari stay following an adverse decision by a court of appeals, the “inquiry must center on whether the applicant will suffer irreparable injury and whether the applicant has a reasonable probability of succeeding on the merits.” *United States v. Holland*, 1 F.3d 454, 456 (7th Cir. 1993)(chambers opinion, Ripple, J.). Even if irreparable harm is shown, a stay pending a petition for certiorari is not justified where there is not a reasonable probability that the Supreme Court would grant the petition and the applicant would ultimately prevail on the merits. *See Planned Parenthood of Se. Pa. v. Casey*, 510 U.S. 1309, 1310-11 (Souter, Circuit Justice 1994).

Evans has not stated the grounds of his anticipated petition for certiorari. The unpublished decision of the court of appeals simply found that the factual findings by this court were not clearly erroneous. There is no indication that the issues in the case justify any optimism by the applicant that the Supreme Court would grant certiorari and ultimately rule in his favor on the merits.

On the other hand, there are substantial reasons for not granting a stay in these cases. The charges against the defendant have been pending for several years without resolution, primarily because of the issues surrounding Evans' competency. The government's ability to prosecute him may be harmed by the further passage of time. The public interest in a prompt resolution of these criminal charges is not supported by further delay.

For these reasons, it is **ORDERED** that the Motion to Extend Stay in each case is DENIED.

ENTER: October 9, 2006

/s/ JAMES P. JONES
Chief United States District Judge